



# FINAL Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

6:00pm - 8:00pm Board Meeting Hybrid

Meeting No. 24.06

Prepared by Christy McKenzie

Members Present:

Emily Batty(Chair), Mudasser Seraj (Vice Chair), Joshua Jackman, Zohra Jabeen, Bailey Gerrits, Eugene Masahkwe, Maria Owczarek, Rebecca Hardie, Lexi McFarlane, Shalene Williams, Ken Kirk

Regrets:

Steve Bradshaw (President, ATU 569)

City of Edmonton Staff:

Councillor Erin Rutherford, ETSAB Council Advisor

Marc Lachance, ETS Staff Liaison

Christy McKenzie, A/ETSAB Admin Support

Sarah Feldman, ETS Director Transit Planning, Ridership and Revenue

Materials & Attachments:

- Meeting Agenda
- ETS Branch Highlights Report

<b>CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM</b> Land acknowledgement	<b>E. Batty</b> Board Member
<b>AGENDA REVIEW DECISION</b>	
<i>MOVED: by E. Masahkwe, seconded by S. Williams to approve the July 2, 2024 agenda.</i>	
<b><u>CARRIED</u></b>	
<b>MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING DECISION</b>	
<i>MOVED: by B. Gerrits, seconded by L. McFarlane to approve the May 27, 2024 minutes.</i>	
<b><u>CARRIED</u></b>	

<b>Presentation: Fare Gates Pilot Report Summary (CO02262 - Sept. 17, 2024 UPC)</b>	<b>S. Feldman</b>
<p>Sarah Feldman, ETS Director Transit Planning, Ridership and Revenue provided a summary of the content of an upcoming report to the Urban Planning Committee of Council on September 17, 2024, followed by a Q &amp; A session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The report is titled “Infrastructure Enhancement for City Transit Facilities” and is in response to a Council motion: “That Administration provide a report outlining a detailed plan for a two year trial for the use of fare gates at two transit facilities, including one LRT station with an underground platform, including a cost-benefit analysis, recommendation, evaluation plan, and detailed costing for the trial.</li> <li>● ETSAB, AAC, and WAVE are some boards and committees being engaged to solicit feedback. Broader public engagement was not expected to be included in the scope of work at this stage.</li> <li>● Context/Setting:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Transit ridership reached 5.3 million in May 2024, marking a 130% increase since May 2021 and a 14% increase over May 2023.</li> <li>● The ETS network consists of 43 stations, servicing both bus and LRT routes.</li> <li>● The regional implementation of the ARC smart fare payment system will be completed in 2025, including an open payment phase.</li> <li>● All LRT platforms, buses and trains will be designated as proof of payment zones.</li> <li>● Crime severity, violent crime severity, and security disorder have decreased in the first half of the year compared to the same period in 2023.</li> <li>● Rider safety perception is improving, with nearly two-thirds of riders feeling safe throughout</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- The current fare evasion rate is tracked at lower or comparable to other jurisdictions. Transit Peace Officers do randomized inspections across the ETS network. Fare assistance is available to those who cannot afford a low income pass. True crime and security disorder have decreased since the same time last year. Partnerships with other organizations are in place to help keep riders safe.
- Fare gates have been in use within Canada in Ottawa, Vancouver and Toronto since 2015 to 2017. A diagram showing the basic structure of fare gates was provided, including the security barrier, a wider accessibility gate, and the ARC card validators. It was noted that other agencies have confirmed that the presence of a fare gates attendant is required as well.
- Discussion questions were presented to the Board:
  - Do you feel fare gates will improve perceptions of safety and security on transit? If yes, how so?
    - It was confirmed that security personnel and transit peace officers will still be needed on both sides of the gated areas.
    - There was discussion around criteria for selecting the two stations for the pilot, such as the cost to install the infrastructure, and security issue statistics.
  - Do you think people from marginalized or diverse communities might experience fare gates differently? If yes, how so?
    - Members inquired whether fare gates were considered in the past, and if so, whether the decision not to install may still be valid.
      - Would there be more value in spending the funds on additional peace officers?
      - Members made reference to a pilot study out of Calgary Transit and the results of their cost-benefit analysis.
    - Are there critical elements you want Council to consider when making this decision?
      - Members noted that there may be opportunity for other security features to be added when the infrastructure is being added, and this should be considered.
      - Members inquired about how effectiveness and value will be measured? (Including consideration for the effect of cold weather on the functionality of the infrastructure).
      - Members inquired whether newer lines (Valley Line East) and future lines (Valley Line West) will be retrofitted with the fare gates if the pilot is successful.
  - Other Board questions
    - It was confirmed that the gates would be at the concourse levels, not at the platform level.
    - It was confirmed that the fare gates would only operate with chip-enabled cards and smartphones, so it would not be fully implemented until the ARC card program, including allowance for credit card and smartphone payments is in place. Paper tickets and other open payment options will be phased out after the remaining programs are added to ARC.
    - Members inquired about the best way to respond to the report. Sarah confirmed that responses heard today would be built into the insights report. The Chair may collect additional member feedback and email to herself or Marc. The Board may respond directly to Council independently as well.
    - There was some general discussion about the potential need to review the feedback process. It was noted that the turnaround time provided to ETS Administration for responses to Council motions varies. Twelve weeks is the average turnaround time. For this report, more time was provided. Sarah noted that the “state of transit” topics presented by the ETS Branch Manager at ETSAB Annual Work Plan Retreats is good information for consideration for topics for the Board to research.

#### **New Business/Updates:**

##### **a) Councilor Emerging Issues Update (Clr. E. Rutherford)**

- Councilor Rutherford shared the memo from the Deputy City Manager’s Office regarding the Sub-Committee Resource request for Council’s Edmonton Transit Service Advisory Board. A resource will be provided by ETS Administration to support one sub-committee for the current Board year. Councilor Rutherford and Sarah Feldman noted that members can select any topic for this year’s subcommittee at their discretion, without returning to the Executive Committee for

approval, as that stage of the process has passed. Multiple subcommittees can be proposed for approval by the Board for future years.

- Members inquired about whether there are any plans for upgrades to the Government Centre LRT Station, or another location that could become a transportation hub for other transit companies as well, such as motor coaches/coach buses. It was noted that the current Capital Plan is focussed mainly on renewal projects that address safety concerns due to infrastructure aging, and the budget is set to 2026. It was confirmed that there are no plans to decommission the Government Centre station.

**b) Perception of LRT Safety Report**

- The Working Group presented the final report to the Board for approval to submit for presentation to Council. All members were in favor. The Perception of LRT Safety report will be requested to be added to the Council agenda on September 10, 2024, at the same meeting the City's report CO02359 - Quarterly Update on the Transit Safety Plan and the Downtown Core is scheduled to be presented.

**MOVED:** by L. McFarlane, seconded by R. Hardie to approve the report as presented.

**CARRIED**

**c) ETSAB Annual Work Planning Retreat**

- The ETSAB Annual Work Planning Retreat is a full Saturday planning and team building session for the activities of the Board for the year, and the plan is included in the Annual Activity Report to Council in March of each year. The Board selected Saturday, February 8, 2025 as the date to hold the retreat.

**ci) Survey re: Mandate & Permanency of ETSAB**

- Emily requested the Board members to provide comments in response to a survey she will distribute by email this week which is due to be submitted back to the Civic Agency office by the end of July on the topic of the mandate and permanency of the ETS Advisory Board.

**cii) YouTube Channel Live Stream Management**

- As the retention of the recorded live stream sessions after the meeting is held is optional, members opted to keep the live stream public for one week after the meetings are held. The access will be changed from public to private until minutes are approved at the following Board meeting. Once the minutes are approved, the associated recording will be permanently deleted by the administrator.

**ciii) Edmonton Transit Riders Organization**

- Emily informed the Board members that a representative from an organization formed earlier this year has contacted her as Chair, requesting to introduce their group, and she was able to meet with them early today. Members were encouraged to visit the website for more information. (<https://edmontontransitriders.org/>)

Working Groups	
<b>Fare Evasion Policies</b>	<b>M. Seraj</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rafi confirmed he has distributed a draft of compiled information gathered by the Fare Evasion Policies working group to Board members. The work done to date will assist with providing feedback, likely in letter format, in response to ETS Administration's Fare Gates Pilot report CO02262 - Infrastructure Enhancement for City Transit Facilities (Urban Planning Committee - September 17, 2024).</li> </ul>	

External Updates	
<b>ETS Branch Highlights Report</b>	<b>M. Lachance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marc presented the ETS Branch Highlights report. Question and Answer period followed:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Member requested more information on the content of the "ETS 101" travel training program for Grade 6 students which provides a classroom presentation on transit and an experiential ride-along on a chartered bus.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- members inquired about the Bonnie Doon LRT Stop construction barriers. Would like to know if it is a permanent barrier or if it is for grass renewal.
- Members requested a presentation at the next Board meeting, summarizing the upcoming ETS Administration report to the Executive Committee of Council (CO02505 Ride Transit Program Funding Gap - August 28, 2024). Marc read the motion that initiated this report.

<b>Accessibility Advisory Committee - AAC Liaison Update</b>	<b>Z. Jabeen</b>
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- Zohra provided a summary of her experience participating as liaison with the AAC to date, and invited interested members to take over the liaison role. Joshua Jackman expressed interest and will work with Zohra to transition into the role.

<b>Topics of the Night</b>	<b>M. Seraj</b>
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- Members were given the opportunity to provide feedback following the summary of the content of the upcoming report by ETS Administration regarding the Fare Gates Pilot. (Report CO02262 - Infrastructure Enhancement for City Transit Facilities - Urban Planning Committee - September 17, 2024).
- The date was finalized as Saturday, February 8, 2025 for the ETSAB Annual Work Planning Retreat so that the plan can be included in the Annual Activity Report to Council in March.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**CHAIR SIGN-OFF** Signed by:  
*Emily Batty*  
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